

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) An electronic module for live connection
2 with a computer system, comprising:
a power line for receiving power from the computer system and powering a load
4 of the electronic module;
a ground line;
6 an input/output line; and
a switch element coupled to said power line and said ground line between said
8 power line and the load, wherein said switch element disables said power line until said
ground line is coupled to a ground of the computer system.

2. (Original) The electronic module of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a power connector for coupling said power line to the computer system;
a ground connector for coupling said ground line to the computer system; and
4 an input/output connector for coupling said input/output line to the computer
system;
6 wherein said connectors have substantially uniform lengths.

3. (Previously Presented) The electronic module of claim 2, wherein
2 said switch element is a solid-state switch comprising:
a first source coupled to said power connector;
4 a first gate coupled to said ground line; and
a first drain coupled to the load;
6 wherein the solid-state switch is non-conducting until said ground line is coupled
to a ground reference of the computer system.

4. (Previously Presented) An electronic module with non-staggered
2 connectors, comprising:
a power connector configured to couple a first load of the electronic module to an
4 interface power source;

6 a ground connector configured to couple a ground line of the electronic module to
the interface; and
a switch, positioned inline between said power connector and said first load,
8 wherein said switch is configured to electrically isolate said first load until said ground
connector is coupled to the interface;
10 wherein each of said power connector and said ground connector are of
substantially uniform lengths.

5. (Original) The electronic module of claim 4, further comprising:
2 an input/output connector configured to couple an input/output line of the
electronic module to the interface;
4 wherein said input/output connector is of said uniform length.

6. (Previously Presented) The electronic module of claim 4, further
2 comprising:
a logic voltage connector configured to couple a second load of the electronic
4 module to the interface;
wherein said logic voltage connector is of said uniform length.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for ensuring multiple electrical
2 connections are completed to an interface module in a predetermined order, comprising:
a gate configured to be coupled to a ground reference of the interface module;
4 a source configured to be coupled to a voltage source of the interface module; and

a drain coupled to a load;
6 wherein the apparatus is positioned inline electrically between the voltage source
and the load; and
8 wherein the apparatus is non-conducting, and said drain is isolated from said
source, until said gate is coupled to the ground reference.

12. (Previously Presented) A computing device, comprising:
2 a processor;
a memory; and
4 a hot swappable component, comprising:
a power input configured to receive power, for powering a component
6 load, from the computing device through a power connector;
a ground configured to receive a ground reference from the computing
8 device through a ground connector; and
a switch configured to isolate said power input from the a-component load
10 until said ground is coupled to the ground reference;
wherein said switch is positioned between said power input and the
12 component load.

13. (Original) The computing device of claim 12, wherein said power
2 connector and said ground connector are of substantially identical lengths.

14. (Original) The computing device of claim 12, wherein the hot
2 swappable component further comprises:
an input/output line configured to provide information from the component to the
4 computing device through an input/output connector;
wherein said power connector, said ground connector, and said input/output
6 connector are of substantially identical lengths.

15. (Original) The computing device of claim 12, wherein the hot
2 swappable component further comprises:

4 a logic voltage input configured to receive logic voltage from the computing
device through a logic voltage connector;
wherein said power connector, said ground connector, and said logic voltage
6 connector are of substantially identical lengths.

16. (Original) The computing device of claim 12, wherein said switch is a
2 field effect transistor comprising:
a gate configured to be coupled to the ground reference;
4 a source configured to be coupled to the power input; and
a drain coupled to the component load;
6 wherein said field effect transistor is non-conducting until said gate is coupled to
the ground reference.

17. (Previously Presented) A method of connecting a hot swappable
2 module to an interface of a computing device, comprising:
receiving a first voltage from the computing device through a first voltage
4 connector of the module, wherein said first voltage connector is electrically separated
from a load of the module by a switch;
6 receiving a ground reference from the computing device through a ground
connector of the module;
8 until said ground reference is received, isolating said first voltage connector from
the load of the module; and
10 when said ground reference is received, enabling electrical conductivity between
said first voltage connector and the load.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said first voltage
2 connector and said ground connector are of substantially the same length.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising receiving a
2 digital input/output connection from the computing device through an input/output
connector.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising receiving a
2 second voltage from the computing device through a second voltage connector of the
module.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein one of said first voltage
2 and said second voltage is Vcc.